

# Substance Exposed Newborns Steering Committee Policy Recommendations

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## **Update the Colorado Children's Code to align with federal Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act requirements related to Substance Exposed Newborns**

- Remove focus on drug testing at birth and tie in statute to Criminal Code Definitions of Scheduled Substances

## **Child Fatality Prevention System Recommendation: Support policies to improve caregiver behavioral health, such as:**

- Screening and referral during the perinatal period
- Health insurance coverage
- Behavioral health integration into primary care

## **Increase Access to and Support Continuation of MAT in jails, specifically for pregnant or postpartum women**

- MAT is necessary to prevent acute withdrawal that can be detrimental to maternal-fetal health—particularly for pregnant women who are adhering to a program.
- Jail and/or incarceration can interrupt a pregnant woman's adherence to a program, putting both her health and her fetus's health at risk.

## **Improve access and utilization of perinatal medical care and substance use disorder treatment**

- Pilot co-location of obstetric and MAT/SUD treatment facilities to provide more holistic care to pregnant women with SUDs
- Pilot Expansion of Special Connections Eligibility and Provider Network
- Pilot practice transformation grants for obstetric practices to increase behavioral health integration using the model developed and tested by the State Innovation Model (SIM) Practice Transformation Project

## **Additional Policy Considerations**

- **Data:** Improve data collection, interoperability of data collection systems, and data sharing to inform decision making and improve practice related to addressing the impact on children of caregiver substance use—including child fatality data, child welfare data, medical data, public health data.
- **Home Visitation:** Support existing efforts to scale a continuum of home visiting programs across the state.
- **Child Care:** Expand child care options for parents accessing substance use disorder treatment and recovery services.
- **FASD & Juvenile Justice:** Pilot an FASD screening and referral program within juvenile justice to evaluate resource needs and cost savings